

Amendment to the Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A frame unit for tensioning a printing screen, the frame unit comprising a frame including at least one frame member, the at least one frame member comprising:

a supporting frame element;

at least one engagement element for engaging a fitted printing screen to tension the same, wherein the at least one engagement element comprises a body which is pivotally coupled to the supporting frame element such that the at least one engagement element is pivotable in one, tensioning sense to tension a fitted printing screen and the other, opposite sense to adopt a configuration in which a printing screen can be fitted to or removed from the frame unit, a first, engagement arm extending from the body for engaging a fitted printing screen, and a second, biasing arm extending from the body to which a biasing force is applied to bias the at least one engagement element to pivot in the tensioning sense; and

at least one biasing element operative to apply a biasing force to the biasing arm of the at least one engagement element to bias the at least one engagement element to pivot in the tensioning sense and tension a fitted printing screen.

2. (Previously Presented) The frame unit of claim 1, wherein the supporting frame element comprises an extruded section.
3. (Previously Presented) The frame unit of claim 1, wherein the at least one engagement element comprises an extruded section.
4. (Previously Presented) The frame unit of claim 1, wherein the supporting frame element includes a cavity along a length thereof in which the at least one engagement element is disposed.

5. (Previously Presented) The frame unit of claim 1, wherein the supporting frame element includes a recess in a surface thereof into which the at least one engagement element extends for receiving an engagement member at a respective edge of a fitted printing screen.
6. (Previously Presented) The frame unit of claim 1, wherein the supporting frame element includes one of a pivot projection or a pivot recess extending along a length thereof and the at least one engagement element includes the other of a pivot recess or a pivot projection extending along a length thereof which engages the one of the pivot projection or the pivot recess of the supporting frame element.
7. (Previously Presented) The frame unit of claim 6, wherein the one of the pivot projection or the pivot recess of the supporting frame element and the other of the pivot recess or the pivot projection of the at least one engagement element are captively engaged.
8. (Previously Presented) The frame unit of claim 1, wherein the at least one biasing element provides a permanent biasing force.
9. (Previously Presented) The frame unit of claim 1, wherein the at least one biasing element comprises a resilient element.
10. (Previously Presented) The frame unit of claim 1, wherein the at least one frame member comprises:
a plurality of biasing elements for biasing the at least one engagement element.

11. (Previously Presented) The frame unit of claim 1, wherein the at least one frame member comprises:
a plurality of engagement elements disposed along a length of the supporting frame element.
12. (Previously Presented) The frame unit of claim 11, wherein the at least one frame member comprises:
a plurality of biasing elements for biasing the engagement elements, wherein each engagement element is biased by at least one biasing element.
13. (Previously Presented) The frame unit of claim 11, wherein the engagement elements are juxtaposed in end-to-end relation along a length of the supporting frame element.
14. (Previously Presented) The frame unit of claim 1, wherein the frame includes a mounting surface by which the frame unit is mounted to a screen printing machine.
15. (Previously Presented) The frame unit of claim 14, wherein the at least one biasing element is configured to apply a biasing force to the biasing arm of the at least one engagement element in a direction substantially orthogonal to the mounting surface.
16. (Previously Presented) The frame unit of claim 14, wherein the engagement arm of the at least one engagement element extends substantially orthogonally to the mounting surface.

17. (Previously Presented) The frame unit of claim 14, wherein the biasing arm of the at least one engagement element has a principal component extending parallel to the mounting surface.
18. (Previously Presented) The frame unit of claim 17, wherein the biasing arm of the at least one engagement element extends in a direction towards an outer edge of the supporting frame element.
19. (Previously Presented) The frame unit of claim 1, wherein the supporting frame element includes at least one aperture into which at least one engagement member can be inserted to engage the biasing arm of the at least one engagement element to pivot the at least one engagement element in the other sense to adopt a configuration in which a printing screen can be fitted to or removed from the frame unit.
20. (Previously Presented) The frame unit of claim 1, wherein the at least one frame member further comprises:
a counter-biasing element operative to apply a counter-biasing force to the at least one engagement element to overcome the biasing force of the at least one biasing element and pivot the at least one engagement element in the other sense to adopt a configuration in which a printing screen can be fitted to or removed from the frame unit.
21. (Previously Presented) The frame unit of claim 20, wherein the at least one counter-biasing element comprises an expandable member.
22. (Previously Presented) The frame unit of claim 21, wherein the at least one counter-biasing element comprises an inflatable bladder.

23. (Previously Presented) The frame unit of claim 20, wherein the at least one counter-biasing element is configured to apply a counter-biasing force to a side of the biasing arm of the at least one engagement element opposite to which the biasing force is applied by the at least one biasing element.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~The frame unit of claim 20, wherein the at least one engagement element further comprises~~ A frame unit for tensioning a printing screen, the frame unit comprising a frame including at least one frame member, the at least one frame member comprising:

a supporting frame element;

at least one engagement element for engaging a fitted printing screen to tension the same, wherein the at least one engagement element comprises a body which is pivotally coupled to the supporting frame element such that the at least one engagement element is pivotable in one, tensioning sense to tension a fitted printing screen and the other, opposite sense to adopt a configuration in which a printing screen can be fitted to or removed from the frame unit, a first, engagement arm extending from the body for engaging a fitted printing screen, a second, biasing arm extending from the body to which a biasing force is applied to bias the at least one engagement element to pivot in the tensioning sense, and a third, operating arm to which a counter-biasing force is applied by the at least one counter-biasing element to overcome the biasing force of the at least one biasing element applied to the biasing arm and pivot the at least one engagement element in the other sense to adopt a configuration in which a printing screen can be fitted to or removed from the frame unit;

at least one biasing element operative to apply a biasing force to the biasing arm of the at least one engagement element to bias the at least one engagement element to pivot in the tensioning sense and tension a fitted printing screen; and

a counter-biasing element operative to apply a counter-biasing force to the operating arm of the at least one engagement element to overcome the biasing force of the at least one biasing element and pivot the at least one engagement element in the other sense to adopt a configuration in which a printing screen can be fitted to or removed from the frame unit.

25. (Previously Presented) The frame unit of claim 24, wherein the frame includes a mounting surface by which the frame unit is mounted to a screen printing machine, and the operating arm of the at least one engagement element has a principal component extending parallel to the mounting surface.
26. (Previously Presented) The frame unit of claim 25, wherein the operating arm of the at least one engagement element extends in a direction towards an inner edge of the supporting frame element.
27. (Previously Presented) The frame unit of claim 1, wherein the at least one frame member comprises an elongate member.
28. (Previously Presented) The frame unit of claim 1, wherein the frame is substantially rectangular in shape.
29. (Previously Presented) The frame unit of claim 1, wherein the frame includes a plurality of frame members.
30. (Previously Presented) The frame unit of claim 29, wherein the frame includes at least one pair of frame members disposed in opposed relation.

31. (Previously Presented) The frame unit of claim 30, wherein the frame comprises first and second pairs of frame members each disposed in opposed relation.
32. (Currently Amended) ~~The frame unit of claim 31, wherein~~ A frame unit for tensioning a printing screen, the frame unit comprising a frame comprising first and second pairs of frame members each disposed in opposed relation and corner pieces connecting the respective ends of the frame members are connected by corner pieces, the at least one frame member comprising:
a supporting frame element;
at least one engagement element for engaging a fitted printing screen to tension the same, wherein the at least one engagement element comprises a body which is pivotally coupled to the supporting frame element such that the at least one engagement element is pivotable in one, tensioning sense to tension a fitted printing screen and the other, opposite sense to adopt a configuration in which a printing screen can be fitted to or removed from the frame unit, a first, engagement arm extending from the body for engaging a fitted printing screen, and a second, biasing arm extending from the body to which a biasing force is applied to bias the at least one engagement element to pivot in the tensioning sense; and
at least one biasing element operative to apply a biasing force to the biasing arm of the at least one engagement element to bias the at least one engagement element to pivot in the tensioning sense and tension a fitted printing screen.
33. (Previously Presented) The frame unit of claim 29, wherein each frame member further comprises:
a single counter-biasing element operative to apply a counter-biasing force to the at least one engagement element to overcome the biasing force of the at least one biasing element and pivot the at least one engagement element in the other

sense to adopt a configuration in which a printing screen can be fitted to or removed from the frame unit.

34. (Previously Presented) The combination of the frame unit of claim 1 and a printing screen.
35. (Cancelled)
36. (Cancelled)
37. (Cancelled)
38. (Previously Presented) A frame unit for tensioning a printing screen, the frame unit comprising a frame including at least one frame member, the at least one frame member comprising:

a supporting frame element;

at least one engagement element for engaging a fitted printing screen to tension the same, wherein the at least one engagement element comprises a body which is pivotally coupled to the supporting frame element such that the at least one engagement element is pivotable in one, tensioning sense to tension a fitted printing screen and the other, opposite sense to adopt a configuration in which a printing screen can be fitted to or removed from the frame unit, a first, engagement arm extending from the body for engaging a fitted printing screen, and a second, biasing arm extending from the body to which a biasing force is applied to bias the at least one engagement element to pivot in the tensioning sense; and

at least one biasing element operative to apply a biasing force to the biasing arm of the at least one engagement element to bias the at least one engagement element to pivot in the tensioning sense and tension a fitted printing screen;

wherein the supporting frame element includes one of a pivot projection or a pivot recess extending along a length thereof and the at least one engagement element includes the other of a pivot recess or a pivot projection extending along a length thereof which engages the one of the pivot projection or the pivot recess of the supporting frame element.

39. (Previously Presented) A frame unit for tensioning a printing screen, the frame unit comprising a frame including a mounting surface by which the frame unit is mounted to a screen printing machine and at least one frame member, the at least one frame member comprising:

a supporting frame element;

at least one engagement element for engaging a fitted printing screen to tension the same, wherein the at least one engagement element comprises a body which is pivotally coupled to the supporting frame element such that the at least one engagement element is pivotable in one, tensioning sense to tension a fitted printing screen and the other, opposite sense to adopt a configuration in which a printing screen can be fitted to or removed from the frame unit, a first, engagement arm extending from the body for engaging a fitted printing screen, and a second, biasing arm extending from the body to which a biasing force is applied to bias the at least one engagement element to pivot in the tensioning sense; and

at least one biasing element operative to apply a biasing force to the biasing arm of the at least one engagement element to bias the at least one engagement element to pivot in the tensioning sense and tension a fitted printing screen, wherein the at least one biasing element is configured to apply a biasing force to the biasing arm

of the at least one engagement element in a direction substantially orthogonal to the mounting surface.

40. (Previously Presented) A frame unit for tensioning a printing screen, the frame unit comprising a frame including a mounting surface by which the frame unit is mounted to a screen printing machine and at least one frame member, the at least one frame member comprising:

a supporting frame element;

at least one engagement element for engaging a fitted printing screen to tension the same, wherein the at least one engagement element comprises a body which is pivotally coupled to the supporting frame element such that the at least one engagement element is pivotable in one, tensioning sense to tension a fitted printing screen and the other, opposite sense to adopt a configuration in which a printing screen can be fitted to or removed from the frame unit, a first, engagement arm extending from the body for engaging a fitted printing screen, and a second, biasing arm extending from the body to which a biasing force is applied to bias the at least one engagement element to pivot in the tensioning sense, with the biasing arm of the at least one engagement element having a principal component extending parallel to the mounting surface; and

at least one biasing element operative to apply a biasing force to the biasing arm of the at least one engagement element to bias the at least one engagement element to pivot in the tensioning sense and tension a fitted printing screen.

41. (Previously Presented) A frame unit for tensioning a printing screen, the frame unit comprising a frame including at least one frame member, the at least one frame member comprising:

a supporting frame element;

at least one engagement element for engaging a fitted printing screen to tension the same, wherein the at least one engagement element comprises a body which is pivotally coupled to the supporting frame element such that the at least one engagement element is pivotable in one, tensioning sense to tension a fitted printing screen and the other, opposite sense to adopt a configuration in which a printing screen can be fitted to or removed from the frame unit, a first, engagement arm extending from the body for engaging a fitted printing screen, and a second, biasing arm extending from the body to which a biasing force is applied to bias the at least one engagement element to pivot in the tensioning sense; and

at least one biasing element operative to apply a permanent biasing force to the biasing arm of the at least one engagement element to bias the at least one engagement element to pivot in the tensioning sense and tension a fitted printing screen.